SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the information which was given to me by the press and other people is that this project is pending a decision for the past four years. This issue has been raised in this House since 1985. May I know from the hon. Minister why they have not taken any decision either approving the project or rejecting it? Why they are lying over the matter and what is the reason for it?

As on today, at what stage the matter stands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The proposal was submitted by the Punjab Agro-Industries Corporation in July, 1986 and it involves so many departments. We have consulted all the departments and a decision will be taken very shortly by the Government.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: What is the stage?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The stage is pending with the Government.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the hon. Minister is evading the answer. He is not giving a proper reply. For the past four years it is pending. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Sir, we want a half-an-hour discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want half-an-hour discussion on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You apply for that. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Refund of deposit money by automobile manufacturers

*84. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued any guidelines regarding the use of depositors' money with the automobile manufacturers to facilitate refund of deposits by the manufacturers when asked for by the depositors;

(b) whether Government are aware that Lohia Machines, Andhra Pradesh Scooters and Scooters India Ltd. are not refunding for long the deposit money paid by thousands of depositors;

(c) whether Government have, at any time, made an assessments as to how far the guidelines are being observed by the automobile manufacturers in the utilisation of the depositors' money; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is aware that there are a number of cases where, on being asked by the prospective customer to do so, certain compenies have taken unduly long time to refund the advance money taken by them against booking of vehicles.

(c) Reports are received from some companies regarding deployment of the advances collected by them from the consumers in pursuance of the guidelines issued by the Government.

(d) Whenever a complaint is received by the Government regarding delay in refund of advance money it is taken up with the company, concerned for providing prompt relief to the complainant. Govern-

ment is also urging the manufacturers from time to time to attend to the complaints received by them and to refund the advance money without delay.

Installation of extra telephone lines in Delhi and Bombay

*87. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of extra telephone lines proposed to be installed in Delhi and Bombay by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., under its expansion plans;

(b) what are the other details of the expansion plans of the Nigam; and

(c) what is the total number of people on the waiting lists as on the 31st January, 1988 in these cities and by when all the persons on the waiting lists are likely to be provided with telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The number of telephone lines proposed to be installed in Delhi and Bombay during the year 1987-88 are 63,200 and 65,700 respectively.

(b) During the rest of the 7th Five Year Plan, the number of lines proposed to be installed is as below:

	1988-89	1989-90
Delhi	79,900	89,200
Bombay	98,200	93,000

(c) The total number of persons on the waiting list as on 31st January, 1988 is as below:

Delhi	1,83,375
Bombay	2,10,653

Adequate number of telephones to cover the above waiting lists are proposed to be provided by 1992-93. However, the provision of telephones to individual applicants will depend on the relative numbers in the OYT, N-OYT Special and general categories.

Central agency to monitor the allotment and movement of coal to thermal power plants

*88. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments have demanded the setting up of a separate Central agency to monitor the allotment and movement of coal to the State Electricity Boards' thermal power plants; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. A suggestion to this effect was made in the meeting of Power Ministers of Southern Region held in New Delhi on 2nd December 1987.

(b) A Standing Linkage Committee consisting of representatives from Department of Coal, Power, Ministry of Railways, Planning Commission, Central Electricity Authority and Coal Companies is already functioning to consider coal linkages to Thermal Power Stations. This Committee meets every quarter to decide monthly linkages for supply of coal by rail as well as other modes of transport of coal to Thermal Power Stations. The supplies of coal to all the power stations in the country is monitored regularly by the Department of Coal and Central Electricity Authority. Railways have also their own system of monitoring the transportation arrangements. Apart from quarterly meetings special meetings are also held to meet critical situations which arise from time to time. The present arrangements are working satisfactorily. Even if a separate monitoring agency were to be set up, it can only function by interaction with coal companies, Railways and thermal power stations which is already taking place in full measure through the institution of the Standing Linkage Committee. There is, therefore, no case for having another monitoring agency.